

TESTIMONY OF [REDACTED]
ON ORGAN TRAFFICKING BY THE CHINESE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT

before the
INTERNATIONAL, RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

of the
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 16, 1998

My name is [REDACTED], born [REDACTED] in China [REDACTED]

In China, the usual procedure for handing down the death sentence and carrying out executions is as follows:

Before the accused person is sentenced to death, they are incarcerated in detention centers attached to the Public Security Bureau. If they are involved in a serious crime and are **possibly** to be sentenced to death, they are incarcerated in the municipal-level detention centers. As soon as they are sentenced to death by the intermediate court, they are immediately transferred to the municipal-level death row. They are allowed to appeal to a higher court within ten days. In practice, before intermediate courts deliver a death

sentence they invariably consult with the **higher** courts and obtain consent (many intermediate and higher courts are located in the same **building**). **Therefore**, the death penalty is rarely overturned on appeal.

When the higher court makes its **final** ruling it applies for consent from the Supreme People's Court in Beijing. Once the verdict is **affirmed** by the Supreme People's Court, the prisoner can be executed at any time. There is a committee consisting of members of the higher courts which determines the date of execution and the number of death-row inmates to execute at that time. They take into consideration crime-fighting strategies, suggestions from the municipal-level communist party committee secretaries and mayors and possibly requirements for organ extraction. Executions are generally carried out on the eve of traditional holidays. Within about 1-2 weeks from when the Supreme People's Court approves the death sentence, death-row inmates are subject to physical examinations (blood pressure, blood samples, etc.) The prisoner's family is usually notified of the high court's final verdict, but they do not know the actual time or place the execution will be carried out. The families usually learn from the newspapers after the execution has already taken place. This is often reflected in reports in Chinese legal periodicals.

In [REDACTED], serious criminal offenders are incarcerated in the [REDACTED] Detention Center [REDACTED] the municipal Public Security Bureau located at [REDACTED]. This means that prisoners to be executed are also incarcerated there. When the [REDACTED] Intermediate People's Court carries out death sentences, the prisoners are immediately escorted to the [REDACTED] Municipality Prison ([REDACTED]) to be incarcerated in the [REDACTED] Wing (males) or the [REDACTED] Wing (females). There are usually about 400 prisoners on the [REDACTED] Wing and these prisoners are generally those sentenced to death, sentenced to death with a reprieve, or other prisoners convicted of serious offenses. About 40 of these are death-row inmates who are incarcerated on the [REDACTED] floors with hand-cuffs and leg irons on 24 hours a day. A lot of death-row inmates are put in a cell with two other common criminals. Their job is to watch over the prisoner to prevent him/her from committing suicide, etc. One to **two** weeks before execution the prison hospital conducts a physical examination of the prisoner (blood pressure, blood samples, etc.) On the day of execution, the intermediate and high courts dispatch four standard garrison vehicles and three prisoner vans. Judicial police officers fingerprint the prisoners, identify them, and then handle the transfer formalities.

I happened to run into a judicial police officer I knew. Smiling+ he told me, 'Would you like a cup of orange juice?' I was baffled. He was actually asking me if I would like to witness the execution, since it is standard courtesy for the hospital to hand out boxes of orange juice as a way to thank the judicial police officers at the execution site. Of course, judicial police officers never refuse this type of invitation. I witnessed an execution in 1989. **Two** judicial police **officers** made the prisoner kneel down. Then the other officer standing behind shot the prisoner in the back of the head, point-blank with a pistol. Then, the procuratorate members took photos of the prisoner's heads and whole body. Medical personnel in surgical garb took the bodies into a tent. Although I did not see inside, I assumed it was for medical inspection.

One particular execution stayed clearly in my mind [REDACTED]. A prisoner by the name of [REDACTED] was **sentenced to death** for stealing items worth about RMB [REDACTED]. I saw all of the recovered items. His wife, [REDACTED], was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for concealing what she knew **about** the crime. **After** [REDACTED] **was shot**, within one **minute** one of **two** nurses exposed his torso to the waist. The other nurse quickly sterilized his torso. In less than 10 minutes a physician extracted his kidneys, **placed** them in a stainless steel vessel the size of a thermos. Then several medical **personnel** moved [REDACTED] corpse into an ambulance which drove away. The judicial police **officer** standing next to me said, 'They (referring to personnel from [REDACTED] located near the [REDACTED]) always take kidneys first. The hospital has an agreement with the higher court: the hospital can extract whatever they can from executed prisoners, and pays the higher court over RMB 100,000 per year as compensation, but I do not know all the details.' After I returned to the Institute, a colleague showed me documents which described this practice as like "putting waste to good use to treat patients, which was an opportunity for prisoners to atone for their crimes and a chance for a new life." As a matter of fact, Chinese judicial authorities never take ethics into consideration when extracting executed prisoners' organs, and they do not think anything about it is wrong.

I witnessed several other executions [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

When we arrived at the execution site everything was basically the same. There were the indispensable medical personnel. Sometimes there was a tent, sometimes no tent. As I felt nauseous, I did not see the details. But one thing was certain: organs of executed prisoners were extracted.